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Attorney's Docket No. II-124B-R&D

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Dube *et al.*  
Appl. No.: 09/624,820  
Filed: July 25, 2000  
For: METHOD OF IMPROVING FLAVOR IN SMOKING ARTICLE

Confirmation No.: 7464  
Group Art Unit: 1731  
Examiner: D. Walls

October 2, 2002

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

The following is offered as a full and complete response to the Official Action mailed May 2, 2002. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In The Claims:

Please cancel Claim 5.

Please amend Claims 1, 10, 15, 18, and 23 as follows:

B<sup>1</sup>

1. (Twice Amended) A method for improving the flavor and aroma characters of a smoking article, comprising:  
providing an aqueous mixture consisting essentially of a reducing sugar and a hydroxide;  
subjecting said mixture to heat treatment for a time and under conditions sufficient to produce a flavorful caramel composition, wherein said heat treatment is conducted at a temperature of at least about 150°C;  
applying said flavorful composition to a tobacco leaf or cut filler made thereof; and  
preparing a smoking article comprising said tobacco leaf or cut filler.

B<sup>2</sup>

10. (Amended) A method for improving the flavor and aroma characters of a smoking article, said method comprising:

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